

CIA-RDP92G00017R000300070004-4

DATE

14 Nov. 89

TRANSMITTAL SLIP

TO:

EXA/DDA Attention: Sue M.

ROOM NO.

BUILDING

04B

REMARKS:

Registry
file
Day Care Center

STAT FROM:

ROOM NO.

BUILDING

EXTENSION

STAT 1112

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FORM NO.

REPLACES FORM 36-8

(47)

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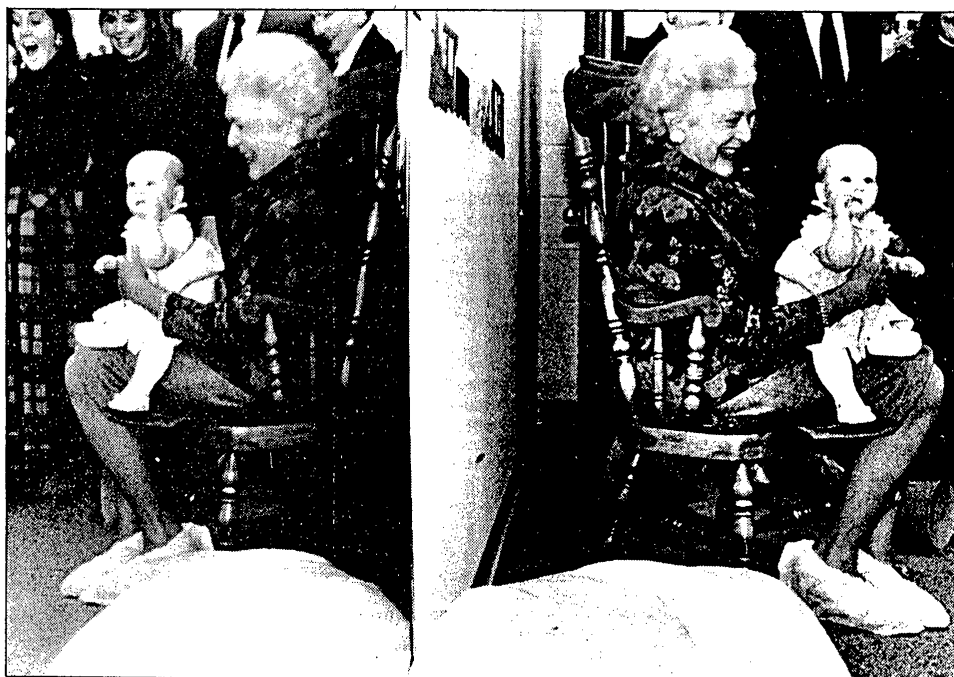


Photo by Stephen Crowley/The Washington Times

Barbara Bush shares a moment with a baby identified only as Katherine during a visit to the new day care center at CIA. It is one of only a few centers with a security guard, and not even the children know each other's last names.

The number of CIA little people is known but the rest is classified

By Lisa McCormack
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

By necessity, the 97 little people enrolled at the state-of-the-art day care center don't know each other's last names. Instead, the children of CIA employees refer to each other as Jake 1, Katherine 3 and David 7.

"Actually some of these are mid-gets and we're going to put them in covert action," CIA Director William Webster said of the "agents" — all of whom are under the age of 5 and attending the new multimillion-dollar Langley Children's Center.

"The children go by their first names and a number. No last names are used," said Clare Taylor, the center's program manager. "The list of children enrolled here is classified. Any list with the names of at least three agency employees is classified."

A day care center for CIA employees must necessarily operate under a different set of rules — and Barbara Bush helped break one of them yesterday when she visited the center.

For security reasons, neither the first nor last name of a baby specially attired in a lacy blue dress by a photo-op conscious parent could be divulged, said a super-cautious center worker, who herself had to pass an FBI check, a polygraph and physical and psychological tests before being hired.

But, whammo! Mrs. Bush walks into the room, picks up the little girl and, lo and behold, the tot's cover is exposed. Katherine! Yes, the wife of a former CIA director let slip the name: Katherine.

Mrs. Bush later admitted that

while George Bush served two years as the agency director under Richard Nixon, she specifically asked her husband not to tell her "things" because "I couldn't keep a secret."

Leslie Switzer, the center's director, said more than one of the children are the offspring of CIA agents, of whom "some are covert and some

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are overt." Not even the children know each other's last names.

It is also one of few day care centers anywhere with its own security guard.

"We want to make sure that no one comes who's not supposed to and nobody takes a child who's not supposed to," Ms. Taylor said, ignoring the fact that a squirrel probably couldn't get through the agency's gate without getting frisked and fingerprinted.

"It's different," agreed Margery Sher, a part-owner of Fried and Sher, a local firm that provided day care

consulting services for the CIA and hired the center's employees.

"We had to go through the security check with every employee. Some didn't make it. It's a stringent process," Ms. Sher said while declining to give examples of why some employees didn't pass CIA muster.

Even the playground is different. A CIA official overheard reporters discussing what looked like three missile silos with slides and chutes attached to them. "No, no," he said, quickly. "Those really aren't missile silos."

With an adult-child ratio of 1-to-3, heated floors and a fountain-like wash-up basin for sticky fingers — all in a building that cost almost \$2.5 million — well, missile silos don't seem to be out of the question.

And only at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a CIA day care center could a congressman get an impromptu briefing on the situation in Eastern Europe from the agency's deputy director of intelligence.

Yugoslavia is "key" and bears close watching following the opening of the Berlin Wall, whereas nobody is quite sure what to expect from Albania, John Helgeson told Rep. Frank Wolf as they left the center.

And Romania? Well, Mr. Helgeson told Mr. Wolf, perhaps the congressman could tell the CIA a thing or two since the gentleman from Virginia is an "expert" on Romania.

Actually, it was then that a suspicious eye was cast toward the three cone-shaped objects in the playground. After all, the "ribbon" Mrs. Bush cut was a string of paper bears. Pink bears — all bearing the children's first names.

By Jen
THE WASH

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